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primaried American *Sylvicolidae* under *Sylviidae*.* We have little faith in the desirableness of associating the cuckoos with the woodpeckers in a group *Zygodactyle*, greatly preferring Huxley's definition of the Coccozygomorphs. In the matter of nomenclature we are not at one with the author, who goes back for his names to Ray, Gesner, Willoughby and Aldrovandi, to say nothing of the comparatively late Brisson and Moehring; but this is simply a matter of individual preference. Whatever "rules" may be made, they are only binding at our option — paraphrasing an old saying: *inter synonyma silent leges*.* *

[We take this occasion to request ornithologists to favor the NATURALIST with a copy of any paper they may hereafter publish; intending to devote reasonable space to the respectful consideration, at the hands of our ornithological co-laborers, of such publications.—EDS.]

NEW ENGLAND ORNITHOLOGY.—Mr. Maynard contributes a very acceptable and creditable paper,† increasing our knowledge of the summer northern distribution and breeding habits of many species of which comparatively little was before known; and gives good descriptions of various nests and eggs. The information respecting most of the land birds observed is quite full and apparently perfectly reliable. The species given number one hundred and sixty-four, which is probably about five-sixths of the whole avi-fauna of the regions explored. As the author confines himself to his own personal observations and those of a few gentlemen who have worked in the same or contiguous localities, the paper is notably free from misstatements of fact, although some of the generalizations seem to us somewhat overdrawn if not altogether hasty. We are unable to agree with Mr. Maynard respecting certain flycatchers which he discusses at length. He evidently labors under a misapprehension (shared, we understand, by other New England ornithologists) regarding *Empidonax Acadicus*. This bird, which appears to be hardly known in New England, is per-

*Respecting this family we are informed by Dr. Coues that he considers it inadequately distinguished from *Turdidae*, viewing the annectant forms of the two families; and that the current *Turdinae*, *Saxicolinae*, *Regulinae*, *Miminae*, *Pycnonolinae*, *Sylviinae* (*Sylvia*, *Erythacus*, *Accentor*, *Calamoherpe* *Phyllopneuste*) should form one family, which may require to be further enlarged to accommodate the *Troglodytidae* and *Motacillidae*.

† A Catalogue of the Birds of Coos Co., N. H. and Oxford Co., Me., with annotations relative to the breeding habits, migrations, etc. By C. J. Maynard. Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. xiv, October 1, 1871.

fectly distinct from *Traillii* and *minimus*, between which Mr. Maynard misconceives it to stand. As an example of the faulty reasoning with which we must charge the author, we may cite the case he presents of *E. minimus*. Finding a certain amount of variation in the proportions of the quills, he assumes that the wing-formula is *entirely* unreliable; which is not the case. If, for example, he had said of *E. minimus* "second, third and fourth quills subequal and longest, fifth little shorter, first and sixth subequal and shortest," he would have laid down a formula by which the species is always distinguishable from *Acadicus** (not from *Traillii*, however). Reverting to a matter of more consequence, we should note that in the localities visited by Mr. Maynard "the Alleghanian and Canadian faunæ meet. . . Starting on the north-eastern coast of Maine, near Mt. Desert, the dividing line of these faunæ proceeds in a southwesterly direction along the southern margin of the mountain range which stretches across the state to the White Mountains. Here it declines to the south, reaching even to Rye Beach. Then once more proceeds northwest along the western borders of the mountain range into Vermont. . . So abruptly is the line defined in many places by the range of mountains, that some birds which occur in abundance on one side are found only as stragglers, or not at all on the other."

For the numerous typographical errors which deface the paper we understand that the author cannot be held responsible, since he had no opportunity of revising the proofs. The paper itself is such a forcible commentary upon the inexcusably faulty practice, by far too common, and quite needlessly so, of printing scientific matter without author's revise, that we refrain from the sermon which nevertheless we are strongly inclined to preach on this occasion. — E. C.

ANNALS OF BEE CULTURE.† — This annual contains several essays of great interest and value to bee keepers; they are all good, and some of sterling value, and apparently above the average of articles appearing in the ordinary bee journals. Its ap-

*The formula of *Acadicus* is: second and third quills subequal and longest, fourth little if any shorter, first and fifth subequal and much shorter, sixth much shorter still.

† Annals of Bee Culture for 1872. A Bee Keeper's Year Book. D. L. Adair, editor. With communications from the best American Apiarists and Naturalists. Louisville, Ky., 1872. 8vo, pp. 64.